

### **Abstract**

**Title:** Achieving Sustainability Through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

**Organizers:** Council of Great Lakes Industries (CGLI) <http://www.cgli.org>.

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**Description of Applicant:** CGLI is a 501 (c)(6) non profit organization (as defined in OMB Circular A-122) that seeks economic growth and vitality of the Region in harmony with its human and natural resources (sustainable development).<sup>1</sup>

**Project Period:**

**Project beginning:** June 1, 2006

**Begin conference planning and pre-conference activities:** June 1, 2006

**Anticipated conference date:** August 17, 2006

**Project End:** October 1, 2006

**Project Costs:**

Personnel	\$23,950
Travel Costs	3,500
Contratual Costs	5,250
Indirect costs	1,500
Total project costs	\$34,200
<b>Total Requested from EPA</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

**Project Summary:**

U.S. EPA is engaged in a review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the U.S. and Canada. The Agreement contains important water quality, ecosystem, and policy criteria for management of resources that comprise these waters and associated ecosystems. Since the last (1987) Agreement revision, sustainable development principles have evolved. The current review and any subsequent Agreement revision must include consideration and application of a combination of environmental, societal and economic principles - sustainable development principles. Because these principles can often be interpreted differently by stakeholders holding differing interests, it will be essential to reach (to the extent possible) consensus between stakeholders on how these principles are applied.

A multistakeholder interactive conference will be held to bring together sustainability experts of varying backgrounds and interests (industry, ENGOs, government, planning agencies, academic and economic scholars, etc.) to examine sustainable development principles, view them within the context of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement purpose statements, and seek consensus on how they should be applied to the review and any subsequent Agreement revision. To facilitate discussions, background papers and information will be prepared prior to the conference. Presentations and interactive conference discussions (both in plenary and breakout session format) will be used to achieve and record consensus and divergent viewpoints. Following the conference, proceedings and final papers (vetted by conference participants) will be prepared to inform the Agreement review process. The specific outputs of this conference will be improved understanding and suggested application of sustainable development principles to simultaneously protect the Great Lakes ecosystem, guide and direct the use of resources to support Great Lakes Region economic needs, and assure ecosystem and economic sustainability for future generations.

**Key Words:** water, chemicals, toxics, public policy, decision making, social science, economics

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<sup>1</sup> CGLI does not, and will not, use funds obtained from EPA grants for lobbying purposes.